



County of Sonoma
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FIRE SERVICES * EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT * HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



JIM COLANGELO, INTERIM DIRECTOR

July 20, 2018

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Sonoma County Wireless Emergency Alert Test

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This letter is to respectfully request approval of an FCC Rule Waiver in order to conduct a live Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test by the Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department (FES). FES is the primary alert and warning authority for IPAWS in Sonoma County.

As proposed and if approved, the live test would be conducted on Thursday, September 20, 2018. This test would target multiple areas within Sonoma County. This will be the first live test of the WEA system for Sonoma County. The purpose of conducting the test at this time is to ensure that emergency management officials in Sonoma County have a clear understanding of how alerts would perform in our varied topography.

Since our wildland fires last year, there has been a lack of faith in the emergency warning systems in Sonoma County. With updated policies and trainings, it is vital that we conduct a WEA test to inform our residents and build confidence.

We want our citizens to be familiar with the format of various alert and warning system formats. In the event of emergencies, WEA, EAS and other emergency messaging will direct citizens to our emergency information website (socopsa.org) for more information.

The text of the test will read: **TEST emergency message - Sonoma County. www.socopsa.org to provide feedback. No other action needed.**

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the FCC and FEMA to test the WEA functionality within Sonoma County. Thank you for your consideration!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Colangelo".

Jim Colangelo
Interim Director